

SUPPORTING INVEST IN AMERICA  
ACT**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 29, 2021*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in support of the INVEST in America Act, which will create good paying jobs to rebuild and re-imagine America's surface transportation infrastructure by revitalizing our existing roads and bridges and making investments in passenger rail, public transit, cycling and walking infrastructure, and zero-emission options—while creating safer, more connected communities.

After decades of disinvestment and four years of failed 'Infrastructure Weeks,' I believe that now is the time to make desperately needed investments to rebuild our nation.

According to the 2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure assessment by the American Society of Civil Engineers, our nation's infrastructure receives the grade: C-. A continued underinvestment in our infrastructure at current rates will cost \$10 trillion in GDP, more than \$3 million jobs, and \$2.4 trillion in exports over the next 20 years.

We cannot wait. It is time to invest, re-imagine, and revitalize a new American economy by building the architecture of our nation's future. We need transformative plans like the INVEST in America Act and the American Jobs Plan, a once-in-a-century capital investment in America that will create millions of good-paying-jobs and rebuild our country's infrastructure, including high-speed rail.

We need to recognize the importance of investing in high-speed rail. And I will continue working for more rail investment and ensure that federal dollars fund high-speed rail projects across this country—including projects in Connecticut, which total almost \$10B in CT's new initiative, TIME FOR CT and along the Northeast Corridor which currently has \$117B of needed investment through their project titled CONNECT2035 and New Haven's Downtown Crossing, which I was proud to help secure \$20 million for New Haven to reconnect its downtown with both the outlying neighborhoods and the train station—helping the local business community flourish.

We can make opportunity real for millions with good-paying jobs. And, we can strengthen our economy. So, let us move boldly. And let us start rebuilding America.

IN HONOR OF RUSS POPPE

**HON. DAN CRENSHAW**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 29, 2021*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank and honor a true public servant, the Executive Director of the Harris County Flood Control District, Russ Poppe.

Russ is stepping down on July 2, 2021. During his five-year tenure as Executive Director, Russ made a lasting and significant impact to reduce the threat of flooding in Harris County.

Russ's time at the Flood Control District was spent building solid relationships at the local, state, and federal levels. Russ's excellent network of contacts is partly responsible for the Flood Control District bringing in over one billion dollars in federal grants in the past few years. He has earned the trust of various agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Russ led the Flood Control District through the worst rainfall event in American history, Hurricane Harvey in 2017. In the aftermath of Harvey, Russ helped former County Judge Ed Emmett pass the historic \$2.5 billion Harris County Flood Bond in August 2018. After voters approved the bond program, Russ became the head of a multi-billion-dollar enterprise, all with the purpose of helping his community in Harris County.

Since that time, under Russ's leadership, the Flood Control District has started over 200 flood damage reduction projects and has increased project delivery volume over ten times.

Russ's leadership and professionalism will be missed at the Flood Control District. Russ always practiced leadership by inspiration, not intimidation. Russ and his staff have spent countless hours working with my staff and me to ensure we understand the tremendous challenges the Harris County area faces when it comes to reducing flooding.

I wish to thank him for his service and wish him all the best. I am certain that he will continue his success at the next stop on his career journey.

RECOGNIZING JOEL GOMEZ AS MY  
CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH**HON. MIKE LEVIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 29, 2021*

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Encinitas native Joel Gomez for my June Constituent of the Month. Recent graduate of Classical Academy High, Joel Gomez has not only represented California's 49th Congressional District around the country with his impressive athletic ability, but also the United States on the world stage as a medal award-winning Paralympic athlete. A member of the United States Paralympic Track and Field team, Joel has competed with great success in Switzerland, Peru and Dubai, earning two gold medals and one silver medal in the 1500 meters and 400 meters events. On top of that, Joel was named the 2019 Male Junior Para Athlete of the Year by USA Track & Field.

Still just 17 years old, Joel is currently preparing to represent the United States as a member of Team USA once again at the Tokyo Paralympics. Although the COVID-19 pandemic put a hold on much of the athletic communities' plans, Joel remained positive in his training and competition efforts, a perseverance he is no stranger to. With the postponement of the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics and Olympics, Joel had the opportunity to train,

stay motivated, and work harder than ever for what he hopes will soon be the pinnacle of his running career upon successful qualification at the U.S. Paralympic Team Trials.

In addition to his athletic achievements, Joel is an accomplished student, and is set to attend Purdue University this fall, where he intends to study industrial engineering. He also plays 4 instruments and sings, and in 2017, he made it to the finals in the Boys and Girls Club of Southwest County Idol Season 8. I'm honored to represent such an impressive young man, and I'm eager to watch and cheer him on as he races on the behalf of Team USA. Competing at an international level is an incredible feat, especially at such a young age, and I am proud to stand behind this remarkable, well-rounded young man, who I'm pleased to recognize as my June Constituent of the Month.

## IN RECOGNITION OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE PAUL MITCHELL

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 29, 2021*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my friend and colleague, Representative Paul Mitchell, who retired after proudly serving his constituents from Michigan's 10th Congressional District.

Paul was recently diagnosed with stage IV renal cancer and after great medical treatment is on his way to a continued recovery. While my heart hurts for his family, I am optimistic Paul will pull through. He has shown us time and time again that he is not only a man of principle, but also a fighter.

I first met Paul when we came in the same class after being elected in 2016. We served together on the House Armed Services Committee and we shared the same hallway in the Cannon House Office Building. Serving on the House Armed Services Committee, we had the opportunity to travel and visit troops in Germany and the Middle East, and build our friendship. I continued to work with Paul as we also served together on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Throughout the years, I got to know Paul's humor and his dedication towards service.

While Paul and I did not always agree on policy, I always knew that I could have a candid discussion with my friend. Our conversations were cordial and with a shared goal of improving the lives of the American people and upholding our democracy.

In order to achieve these goals, Paul was not afraid to cross party lines. During his last term, Paul showed incredible courage in standing up for our democracy and supporting the 2020 election results.

It is with this same courage that I know Paul will use to fight this disease. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking former Representative Paul Mitchell for his leadership and service to our country and his constituents.

As Paul begins his treatment, I want to send him my best. I look forward to the day when we can celebrate Paul's remission.